

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN PEPR KS US
SUBJ: KOREA MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, APRIL 20

REF: SEOUL 3216 (DTG 190820Z APR 78)

1. PING-PONG. HEAVY COVERAGE CONTINUES ON U.S. TEAM TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA. TWO PAPERS CARRY TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS OF KENNEDY MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) KOREAN-AMERICAN PLAYERS WILL BE INCLUDED ON TEAM, (B) TEAM VISIT HAS NO POLITICAL CONNOTATION, (C) IN VIEW OF PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY ROK SHOULD BE INVITED, AND (D) "DOS DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT WE DO". EDITORIALS TAKE LINE EITHER THAT (A) U.S. SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS OF DIRECT NK CONTACT THROUGH THE MATCH OR (B) ADOPT NEGATIVE LINE THAT TRIP IS "REGRETTABLE"/ "SHOCKING" AND URGE THE U.S. TO REJECT INVITATION UNLESS ROK PARTICIPATES. SINA ILBO NOTES THE SITUATION IS "DELICATE" AND LINKS PING-PONG TO TRIPARTITE TALKS PROPOSAL. "PINE-PONG SHOCK" IS NOVEL ADDITION TO WIDESPREAD COMMENTARY WHICH STRESSES ROKG MUST FIND OUT DETAILS OF THIS ISSUE. SEOUL SINMUN CITES "ROKG SOURCE" IN LENGTHY COMMENTARY, NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS RESTRAINED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REASONED TONE. SOURCE POINTS OUT (A) DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1971 US/PRC PING-PONG DIPLOMACY WHICH WAS BILATERAL AND CURRENT INVITATION WHICH IS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GATHERING; (B) THAT ROK HAS OPEN DOOR POLICY; (C) THAT ROK HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ATHLETIC EXCHANGE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND WILL SEND TEAM TO MOSCOW OLYMPICS; (D) PING-PONG

TRIP SHOULD NOT BE CONNECTED WITH TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL;
AND (E) EXPECTS USG WILL NOTIFY ROKG THAT TEAM'S
VISIT WAS NOT RESULT OF USG DECISION. FEATURE
COMMENTARY CONTINUES "PING-PONG DIPLOMACY" LINE,
STRESSING POLITICAL MOTIVATION OF NK AND LINKING IT
WITH US/PRC PING-PONG DIPLOMACY.

2. ADMIRAL WEISNER. LARGE FRONTPAGE COVERAGE OF
WEISNER'S HONOLULU REMARKS, STRESSING (A) NK ATTACK
CAN BE DEFEATED NORTH OF SEOUL, (B) SEVEN-DAY WARNING
SYSTEM IN EFFECT, (C) CONTINUED JOINT EXERCISES
PLANNED, AND (D) EVEN AFTER WITHDRAWAL FULLY PREPARED
FOR ANY EMERGENCY.

3. TRIPARTITE TALKS. CHOSUN ILBO CARRIES COMMENTARY
BY TWO PROFESSORS, BOTH SUPPORTING ROK PARTICIPATION IN
PROPOSED TALKS.

4. CEAUSESCU. TOKYO/HAPTONG QUOTES DEN HIDEO AFTER
TALKING WITH PRC DEPUTY PREMIER AS SAYING CEAUSESCU
WILL "SOON" TRAVEL TO PRC AND WILL DISCUSS KOREAN
PENINSULA.
SNEIDER

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